



BOROUGH OF HARWICH

Annual Report

FOR 1951

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector

BOROUGH OF HARWICH

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :

J. ROLAND HETHERINGTON,
L.R.C.P. and S.E., L.R.F.P. and S.G., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

A. E. PRICE, CERT. R.S.I. and S.I.J.E.B.

Clerical Staff :

Mrs. P. BUGG
(from 31/1/51)

HEALTH COMMITTEE

JANUARY—MAY

Chairman : Councillor J. P. Benstead

Alderman E. Gant, Councillors Mrs. H. W. Brennan, R. Fuller,
C. A. Green, Mrs. E. M. Smith, G. V. Smith

JUNE—DECEMBER

Chairman : Councillor J. P. Benstead

Councillors Mrs. H. W. Brennan, R. Fuller, C. A. Green, K. Senior,
Mrs. E. M. Smith, A. G. B. Stooke

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1951

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF HARWICH

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your purusal the Annual Report of the Health Department for the year 1951. This is drawn up in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 42/51.

It gives me much pleasure to record the help given by the Members of the Council, and also the assistance from the Area Health Committee, the Hospital Board and similar bodies. Likewise I wish to place on record the help and co-operation of the Officials of the Borough and the continued loyal support of each of the members of the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. ROLAND HETHERINGTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
Town Hall, HARWICH.
July, 1952.

ANNUAL REPORT 1951

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Borough is 1,512 acres.

The Population (census 1951) was 13,488

Estimated (mid 1951) ... 14,390

Rateable Value, £87,225.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £345 1s. 3d.

Harwich has a history extending over a 1,000 years. The Borough of Harwich came into being as a result of a charter granted by Edward II in 1318. Since that time there have been several other charters, notably one granted by James I, under which the two towns of Harwich and Dovercourt were incorporated as one Borough.

The principal activities of the town are associated with the passenger and freight steamer services, which operate between Parkeston Quay in the adjoining Tendring Rural District, and ports in Holland, Denmark and Belgium. This traffic together with the necessary ancillary services provides work for more than a third of the gainfully employed population. In addition there are several registered factories of medium size.

Dovercourt Bay has, for many years, enjoyed some popularity as a seaside resort, and the corporation has gone to considerable expense to improve the natural attractiveness of Dovercourt Bay. Situated some 70 miles from London, Dovercourt has an unusually good sunshine record—frequently the best on the East Coast and in 1935 the highest sunshine figures in the country. The air is bracing and visitors have been heard to comment on the cleanliness of the town.

I. LIVE BIRTH RATE

	M	F	Total
Live births, legitimate	117	92	209
„ „ illegitimate	2	6	8
Total live births	119	98	217
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population ...	15.08		

The actual number of live births recorded is one less than in the previous year, but the increased population gives a lower birth rate—the lowest since 1934.

2. STILL BIRTHS AND INFANT MORTALITY

	M	F	Total
Still births	7	5	12
Still birth rate per 1,000 population 0·83			
Still birth rate per 1,000 births 52·4			
Deaths of infants under one year ...	3	2	5
Death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births ... 21·65			

TABLE I
INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1951

Cause of Death	Did not Survive one week	Lived over one week but less than four weeks	Survived one month, died under one year	Total
Prematurity	2	—	—	2
Birth injuries	1	—	—	1
Malformations	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	—	—	—	—
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—
Other causes	—	—	2	2
	3	—	2	5

During the year no less than 12 still births and 5 infantile deaths were recorded. Thus 17 out of 229 pregnancies resulted in either a still born child or a living child which did not survive one year. To this must be added the number of miscarriages—an unknown figure.

The infant mortality rate, although higher than the phenomenally low record last year, compares favourably with previous years, no lower rate having been recorded since 1936 (except 1950),

3. DEATH RATE

	M	F	Total
Deaths during year	71	73	144
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 10.07			
The principal causes of death during the year were :—			
Diseases of Blood and Circulatory System ...			76
(15, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21)			
Cancer, all forms			22
(10, 11, 12, 13 and 14)			
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) ...			10
(23, 24, and 25)			
Tuberculosis all forms			6
These groups together account for more than 80% of all the deaths in the Borough.			

TABLE II

Causes of Death				M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	2	3	5
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	0	1	1
3	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	1	0	1
4	Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	0	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	1	0	1
8	Measles	...	...	0	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	0	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	5	0	5
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	1	0	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	0	3	3
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	0	1	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	9	3	12
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	0	0	0
16	Diabetes	...	...	0	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	15	12	27
18	Coronary Disease, angina	...	...	7	8	15
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	0	2	2
20	Other heart disease	...	...	12	17	29
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	0	3	3

Causes of Death						M.	F.	Total
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	6	7	13
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
34	All other accidents	..	...	...	...	3	3	6
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
						71	73	144

TABLE III

Deaths at various ages during 1951

Under 1 year	...	...	5
1 and under 2	...	...	0
2 and under 5	...	...	0
5 and under 15	...	...	0
15 and under 25	...	...	2
25 and under 35	...	...	2
35 and under 45	...	...	2
45 and under 55	...	...	8
55 and under 65	...	...	25
65 and under 75	...	...	40
75 and upwards	...	...	60
			144

More than 70% of the deaths in the Borough were of persons aged 65 and over, and more than 40% were 75 years of age and upwards.

A comparison with the vital statistics of a generation ago is of interest :—

		1921	1951
Birth Rate		24·5	15·08
Infantile Mortality Rate		72	21·65
Death Rate		12·7	10·07

In 1921 for every 1,000 population, there were 24·5 births, of whom 1·7 did not reach the first birthday. In 1951, the corresponding figures are 15 births of whom 0·3 did not survive 12 months. In other words, the chances of an infant living more than one year, are, in relation to the total population more than five times better than a generation ago.

Principal causes of Death :—

		1921	1951
(a)	Diseases of Heart and Circulation	14	76
(b)	Disease of Lungs	19	10
(c)	Tuberculosis, (all forms)	11	6
(d)	Cancer, (all forms)	18	22
(e)	Congenital debility	12	2

Of special interest is the marked increase in the proportion of persons whose death is due to cardiovascular causes.

Reference may also be made to the age at death.

	1921	1951
Death under 1 year	18%	3·5%
Death over 65 years	34%	70%

Thus it would appear that in spite of all the hazards due to the speed and strain of modern civilisation, one's chances of survival are markedly better than 30 years ago.

TABLE IV
Vital Statistics (1950 and 1951)

	England and Wales		Essex		Harwich	
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
Birth Rate (a) ...	15·8	15·5	14·7	14·6	15·3	15·08
Death Rate (a) ...	11·6	12·5	10·0	10·6	9·1	10·07
I.M. Rate (b) ...	29·8	29·6	23·4	21·7	8·1	21·65
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age (b) ...	1·9	1·4	—	—	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough (c)	3·6	3·87	4·38	5·06	0·21	1·66
Diphtheria (c) ...	0·02	0·02	0·01	0·00	0·00	0·00
Measles (c) ...	8·39	14·7	6·42	17·08	15·1	6·32

(a)—Per 1,000 civilian population

(b)—Per 1,000 live births

(c)—Notifications per 1,000 population

TABLE V
Vital Statistics for 1951 and certain previous years

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1910	27·2	10·1	80
1915	23·4	12·3	108
1920	31·1	11·6	81
1925	20·2	10·6	50
1930	16·9	10·3	48·5
1935	16·4	10·1	47·8
1940	15·26	12·67	42·45
1941	20·39	13·93	60·24
1942	21·38	12·39	36·31
1943	18·99	13·07	39·11
1944	28·7	11·72	54·43
1945	21·78	12·45	36·86
1946	23·64	12·89	52·6
1947	24·2	12·88	28·0
1948	18·7	10·1	47·0
1949	19·6	10·05	30·1
1950	15·3	9·1	8·1
1951	15·08	10·07	21·65

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Staffing

(i) The Medical Officer of Health holds the following appointments :—

Borough of Harwich
Medical Officer of Health

Essex County Council
Assistant County Medical Officer
Assistant School Medical Officer

North East Metropolitan Hospital Board
Assistant V.D. Medical Officer

Harwich Port Health Authority
Medical Officer

Medical Inspector of Aliens

(ii) Sanitary Inspector—The Sanitary Inspector carries out all the duties imposed by statute, including the inspection of shops. In addition he holds the post of Inspector under the Shops Act, 1934. He also carries out the necessary duties under the Rat and Mice (Destruction Act), 1919, and is appointed to carry out inspections under the Housing Acts. In co-operation with the Borough Engineer and Surveyor he supervises the Scavenging of the district.

(b) Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens including those connected with V.D. are dealt with at the Laboratory, Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water are sent to the Counties Health Laboratories Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Other samples of food, ice-cream, etc. are dealt with at the Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.

(c) Health Services provided by the Essex County Council acting as Local Health Authority

(1) Ante Natal and Post Natal Clinics.

These are held weekly at 38, Main Road, Harwich. During the year, 52 sessions were held at which 332 attendances were made by 153 expectant mothers, and 3 attended for post-natal examination. In addition to the medical officer and health visitors, the District Nurse Midwives practising in the area attend ; the presence of the latter is exceedingly valuable and is much appreciated.

The extent of ante-natal supervision today, while infinitely better than a generation ago, is still far short of the ideal which is that every expectant mother should be seen **as early as possible** in pregnancy when a thorough examination of the patient can be carried out (including blood tests and dental inspection) and an attempt made to rectify any defects found. All too often no examination is made till pregnancy is well advanced and even then may be somewhat prefatory.

During the year 141 confinements took place in hospital and 76 at home. The reasons for hospitalisation are stated to be— (1) First pregnancy; (2) Unsatisfactory medical or obstetric history; (3) Unsatisfactory home conditions (including overcrowding, etc.) A fourth reason is frequently left unstated—the relative cost of a confinement at home and in hospital. The time is fully ripe for an adjustment (in the Maternity Benefits or otherwise) to ensure that the home confinement is no more costly to the family than one in Hospital.

It is anticipated that a Maternity Hospital in the Borough will be provided during 1952. If so, adequate supervision of the bookings will be essential to ensure that only those mothers who cannot conveniently be confined at home are admitted to the Hospital.

(2) Midwives and District Nurses. In the area of the Borough (with the adjoining township of Parkeston), there are two District Nurse Midwives and in addition there is a Male Nurse.

(3) Infant Welfare Clinics. This service has been well maintained throughout the year. 99 Sessions were held (51 at 38, Main Road, Harwich and 48 at All Saints' Church Hall, Dovercourt), when 530 children made 4,122 attendances. It would seem that the Clinic afternoon is quite an event for many of the mothers, who are glad

to avail themselves of the opportunity, not only to meet the "staff", but also other mothers with whom to discuss the troubles and accomplishments of their youngsters.

We are fortunate in having an efficient and dependable body of voluntary helpers. Without their kindly assistance, it would be almost impossible for the Clinics to continue, and it gives much pleasure to be given this opportunity of placing on record an appreciation of their labour.

(4) **Health Visiting.** The Health Visitor is the keystone of the Preventive Health Service as it affects the individual. She it is who by the tactful dissemination of her knowledge of preventive medicine and hygiene provides the human touch to what is otherwise too often a service of soulless statistics and irritating regulations. That the Health Visitor is welcomed in the majority of homes is evidence that she fulfils a present day need. A large proportion of those who are "ailing" are suffering from mental ill-health rather than a physical malady, brought on frequently by unsatisfactory housing, overcrowding or the ever increasing problem of adjusting a relatively high income to a still higher expenditure. To these people, the sympathetic words of a Health Visitor can often achieve much more than can many tablets or bottles of medicine! Every facility should be available to assist the Health Visitor in her work. The people in their homes are glad of her advice—may it be suggested that those in authority call for her opinion more frequently!

During the year, the two Health Visitors in the Borough paid 3,133 visits in addition to the supervision of clinics and school inspection.

(5) **Home Helps.** This work has been maintained throughout the year and has been much appreciated by the unfortunate ailing members of the community who have to call upon the service.

(6) **Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.**

(Undertaken by the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and and St. John Ambulance Brigade).

(7) **Vaccination and Immunisation.** Although this work has been carried on throughout the year, there is an appalling reluctance on the part of parents to have their infants vaccinated. Is it a real objection or sheer laziness? One dare scarcely contemplate the panic which would arise if smallpox occurred in the Borough—a by

no means impossible occurrence in a seaport ! The position as regards immunisation against Diphtheria is somewhat more satisfactory—it would be more correct to say that it is rather less unsatisfactory ! During the year 126 children under the age of five were immunised, 29 by the general practitioners and 97 at the Local Authority Clinics. Thus less than half of the young children in the Borough are protected against diphtheria. Yet experience has shown that although the incidence is less than formerly, the disease, once it occurs is as deadly as ever.

Many of those immunised were at the same protected against Whooping Cough.

(8) **Ambulance Service.** One ambulance and one vehicle for “sitting” patients are stationed at Harwich, supplying the need of the district.

(9) **School Health Service.**

As Assistant School Medical Officer the Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the School Health Service of all the Schools in the Borough, and also those in the surrounding rural area.

At the end of the year there were some 2,700 children in attendance at the schools in the area. 560 of these were given a routine medical examination (which occurs three times in school life, at 5, 10 and 14 years of age). The nutritional standard is satisfactory as indicated by the following :—

Group A—Good	246	44%
Group B—Normal	303	54%
Group C—Poor	11	2%

The attendance records reflect the unsatisfactory degree of overcrowding in the schools, especially in some of the infant departments where the incidence of colds and catarrhal complaints has been unusually high. The Education Authority are fully aware of the conditions prevailing and are endeavouring to deal with the problem, which is made the more acute by the fact that nearly all the houses erected since the war are in the West and West Central Wards.

The ancillary services (Dental and Speech Therapy) continue to function satisfactorily, meeting a definite need found in the school population.

(d) Health Services provided by the Hospital Board

(1) Harwich and District Cottage Hospital.

This contains 30 beds and caters for medical and surgical disabilities. The medical staff comprise a Resident Medical Officer and the General Practitioners of the town attend daily. In addition, consultant physicians, and surgeons, from neighbouring towns visit on specified days.

(2) Tuberculosis Service.

During the year a Mass Miniature Radiography Campaign was carried out with the following results :—

(i) Total number of miniatures taken	M	F	Total
Adults	1,748	1,308	3,056
Schoolchildren	220	173	393
	1,968	1,481	3,449

(ii) Results	M	F	Total
(a) Adults :			
Recalled for large film	66	31	97
Recalled for investigation	21	11	32
Referred to Chest Clinic	13	7	20
(b) Children :			
Recalled for large film	3	1	4
Recalled for investigation	2	0	2
Referred to Chest Clinic	0	0	0

(iii) Follow up

Of the 20 cases referred to the Chest Clinic, 3 were classified as having conditions other than tuberculosis ; 4 were still awaiting diagnosis at the end of the year ; the remaining 13 cases of tuberculosis were classified as follows :—

No further action	—
Single check as precaution	1
Clinic care for longer period while remaining at work	8
Clinic care with modified work	1
To cease work and remain at home	—
Sanatorium or similar treatment	3

TABLE VI

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1951

Age	New Cases Notified During Year				Deaths During Year			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
35—45	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	5	3	4	—	2	3	—	1

In the past five years, 54 cases of Tuberculosis have been notified, 43 pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary. There is a tendency for the disease to develop at a more advanced age than in former years, when the age 15—25 was considered the danger period. More recently, and particularly in the male sex, the middle aged would appear to be more susceptible to infection.

(3) Venereal Disease.

It is gratifying to be able to report a marked decline in the incidence of infection, due in no small measure to the introduction of more speedy methods of treatment.

SECTION C

SANITARY CONDITIONS

I. Water Supply

Water is supplied by the Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company, and is obtained from wells and boreholes sited at Lawford and Dedham in the Upper Chalk formation.

The majority of the houses in the Borough are supplied from the public water main direct into the houses, and a few standpipes at the back of the houses. There are a few local wells supplying isolated houses. Routine inspection of these is carried out.

WATER ANALYSIS

Chemical and Bacteriological Results

Chemical results in Parts per million

DEDHAM WORKS

	Maximum	Minimum
Colour	Less than 10	Nil
Reaction pH.	7.9	7.3
Electric Conductivity at 20°C	1020	640
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	165	62
Hardness. Total	285	255
Temporary	260	245
Permanent	25	10
Nitrogen in Nitrates ...	0.4	0.4
Free Ammonia	0.44	0.12
Metals. Iron	0.24	0.11
Turbidity	3	Less than 3
Odour	Nil	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide ...	18	5
Total Solids	670	430
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	260	245
Nitrogen in Nitrites ...	0.01	Less than 0.01
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	0.10	Absent
Residual Chlorine	0.18	0.05
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	Nil	Nil

Bacteriological Results :

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present —
	Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. Coli.	Present —
	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction	Present —
	Absent from 100 ml.

Number of colonies developing on Agar per c.c. or ml. 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C.

0 0 0

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

LAWFORD WORKS — WATER ANALYSIS

Chemical results in Parts per Million

			Maximum	Minimum
Colour	...	...	Less than 10	Nil
Reaction pH.	...	...	7.4	7.3
Electric Conductivity at 20°C			2250	2100
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	590	540
Hardness. Total	...	...	500	460
Temporary	...	...	270	255
Permanent	...	...	230	205
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	0	0
Free Ammonia	...	...	1.4	0.76
Metals. Iron	...	...	0.4	0.21
Turbidity	...	...	4	Less than 3
Odour	...	...	Nil	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	19	15
Total Solids	...	...	1450	1290
Alkalinity	...	...	270	255
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	0.01	Less than 0.01
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C			0.35	0.15
Residual Chlorine	...	...	0.10	Absent
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.02	Absent

Bacteriological Results :

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present	—
	Absent from 100 ml.	
Bact. Coli.	Present	—
	Absent from 100 ml.	
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Present	—
	Absent from 100 ml.	
Number of colonies developing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in.	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C 3 days at 20°C
	0	0 0

This sample has slight opalescence causing noticeable but not marked turbidity. The water is neutral in reaction, free from metals apart from a trace of iron. It is extremely hard in character though not excessively so and has a high though not excessive content of mineral constituents in solution.

The water is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity consistent with a pure and wholesome condition and suitable for public supply purposes.

II. Sewerage and Drainage.

The Borough (except a few low lying parts and isolated properties) is sewered. There are in effect three systems, the old part of Harwich, the area known as Bathside, and portions of the lower section of Dovercourt gravitate to the Pumping Station, Fernlea Road, is pumped from there to a reservoir running from the Main Road to the sea wall at Harwich, adjacent to the old stone breakwater and discharging in the tideway some distance beyond the seaward end of the stone breakwater.

The drainage from Upper Dovercourt Memorial and Hall Lane at the junction of Fronks Road eastward from these two points and including side roads, etc. flows by gravitation to the afore mentioned reservoir and discharges into Harwich Harbour.

Of this system there are two storm water overflows, one in Portland Avenue, which discharges through Tower Pond to Patricks Creek, and another in Victoria Street, which discharges into the River Stour adjacent to the footbridge leading to Bathside.

There is also a storm water overflow at the seaward end of the reservoir running from the Main Road, which discharges immediately over the seawall at times of exceptional rainfall.

The other sewerage system is the new one which came into operation on the 20th November, 1950. The system is in effect two combined systems. Certain properties situate on the Parkeston Road and the new housing estate known as The Close, Harcourt Avenue and Fryatt Avenue, drain by gravitation to a Pumping Station situate to the north west of the old Works and to the north of Dovercourt Church. This pumping station is known as the Northern Pumping Station. The sewerage from this pumping station is pumped from there up the rise to a back drop manhole situated on Dovercourt Green immediately to the south of Clarkes Cottages (now known as 598-612, Main Road, Dovercourt.) At this point the rising main from the northern pumping station connects with the diverted Upper Dovercourt system (this system previously flowed to the old treatment works to the north of Dovercourt Church.) The whole of the sewerage from the back drop manhole then flows by gravitation to the southern sewerage works at Brookman's Farm, Low Road, Dovercourt. At this works there are settlement tanks, sludge tanks, and sludge beds. The untreated effluent discharges on to the foreshore at a point below low water mark.

Closet Accommodation

The approximate number is as follows :

Water closets	...	...	5,177
Pail closets	...	...	30
Houses with cesspool drainage			40

The emptying of cesspools and pail closets is the responsibility of the owners, although the Council, arrange for emptying at the expense of and on the request of the owners.

III. Scavenging.

Household refuse is collected once weekly, together with all types of salvage by the Council, by direct labour, and is disposed of by controlled tipping on land to the north of the sea wall at Dovercourt.

Uncontrolled Dumping.

For some years past considerable trouble has been experienced due to indiscriminate dumping of waste materials of all description on the numerous areas of undeveloped land throughout the Borough (not always of such materials as to constitute a nuisance as defined by the Public Health Act, but most certainly creating an eyesore). It would appear from observation that this is not

peculiar to this Borough, but widespread throughout the length and breadth of this country. What is certain is that such dumping within this Borough is done by the local inhabitants. Seemingly there is a type of person who delights in throwing rubbish on other people's land. There is maintained in the Borough an adequate refuse and disposal service for household and trade refuse, and it should be understood by all residents that if at any time they have more waste materials, old bedsteads, bedding, etc., that can be disposed of in the dustbin, that the Authority will make a special collection of same. The only exceptions are builders' debris and garden refuse, and the latter should be burnt or composted. Indiscriminate dumping is bad for any town or neighbourhood and especially so in a seaside resort.

Salvage

The following is the weight of Salvage collected and sold during the year, and the figures for 1950 are shown as comparison.

		1950						1951					
		T.	C.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	£	s.	d.	
Waste Paper	...	94	10	2	573	10	4	105	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	1753	19	3	
Metals	...	5	14	1	29	5	0	5	16	17	4	0	
Rags and Sacking	...	4	—	3	95	10	0	4	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	142	15	0	
Kitchen Waste	...	14	17	—	39	17	8	28	—	74	12	11	
		119	2	2	£738	3	0	143	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	£1988	11	2	

IV. (a) Disinfection

At the Health Department, Main Road, Dovercourt, there is a disinfecting station fitted with a Thresh Steam Disinfector, which is used for the steam disinfection of bedding and clothing. This apparatus is a modern direct steam disinfector, and is capable of dealing with any steam disinfection that may be required. Steam disinfection was carried out in 47 cases. In the case of infectious diseases the room or rooms occupied by the patient are fumigated by means of formalin, either in the form of spray, or gas, or both, and when necessary the bedding, etc. is removed for steam disinfection. 46 premises were fumigated during the year.

(b) Eradication of Bed Bugs

In the case of bed bugs, the co-operation of the property owner is sought. Skirting architrave, etc., are removed and paper stripped off the walls of the infested room and burnt. The walls, ceilings, and floors are then sprayed with an approved disinfectant containing a percentage of D.D.T. and either formalin or sulphur gas released in the room, and the room hermetically sealed and left

for at least twelve hours, the bedding, etc., afterwards being removed and steam disinfected. The room may have to receive this treatment a second or third time.

V. Rat Destruction

It is the policy in this area to continually attack and destroy the rat population and to this end the Council employ a rat catcher who is available at any time to deal with the rat nuisance. During the year this man trapped 890 rats. Poison baits are also used in certain positions and judging by the take of baits, and the decrease in the number of rats seen after the laying of baits, the total number of rats destroyed would appear to be far in excess of the number stated.

Wasps Nests

During the summer, 38 wasps nests were destroyed in the Borough.

Dogs

On January 26th, 1951, the R.S.P.C.A., with the co-operation of the Harwich Borough Council and the indefatigable work of their local representative, Mrs. N. K. Whelpton, installed in a building at the Old Isolation Hospital, a Humane Electrocuting Cabinet, for the painless destruction of dogs. During the year, under review, 88 dogs have been dealt with. The operation of this instrument is undertaken by volunteers who are fully insured by the R.S.P.C.A.

VI. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's visits and notices served.

Nature of visits of inspection :				TOTAL VISITS
1	Drainage	...	...	56
2	Infectious Diseases	...	...	8
3	Miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	85
4	Tenancy applications	...	...	239
5	Verminous premises	...	...	17
6	Rat and mice destruction	...	...	42
7	Food inspection	...	...	163
8	Bakehouses	...	...	12
9	Factories	...	...	22
Notices served :				
	Informal notices	...	...	72
	Informal notices complied with	...	...	69
	Statutory notices	...	...	Nil
	Statutory notices complied with	...	...	Nil

SECTION D

HOUSING

Erection of New Houses

The following table covers the period from the cessation of hostilities :

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Total
Erected by Council							
—Houses	10	39	17	63	31	27	187
—Flats					36	26	62
Erected by Private Enterprise—Houses	—	12	10	5	9	9	45
	10	51	27	68	76	62	294

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

I. Food Shops

Frequent inspections are made of all shops, stores, and vehicles where food is stored for sale. These premises are found to be in a clean condition and to comply with regulations.

Foodstuffs condemned during 1951

Wet Fish

Dogfish ...	...	...	...	2 stone
Smoked Fillets	...	...	...	22 lbs.
Kippers ...	...	...	...	2 stone
Haddock Fillets	...	...	...	5 stone

Meat

Bacon ...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Chickens...	...	...	...	4 No.
Sausages ...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Pig Carcase	...	...	...	314½ lbs.

Tinned Meats

Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	327 Tins
Minced Beef	...	...	...	1 "
Ham ...	...	...	...	15 "
Chicken ...	...	...	...	12 "
Pork Brawn	...	...	...	2 "
Ox Tongues	...	...	...	3 "
Pork Sausage	...	...	...	3 "
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	3 "
Chopped Pork	...	...	...	2 "
Jellied Veal	...	...	...	2 "
Rabbit ...	...	...	...	1 "
Liver ...	...	...	...	1 "

Tinned Fish

Pilchards	...	...	...	11 Tins
Sardines ...	...	...	...	4 "
Crab ...	...	...	...	2 "
Herrings	...	...	...	6 "
Salmon ...	...	...	...	25 "
Kippers ...	...	...	...	5 "

Milk Tinned

Milk, Full Cream	...	...	...	33 "
Milk, Evaporated	...	...	...	131 "

Other Tinned Foods

Vegetables	...	...	...	3 "
Plums ...	...	...	...	102 "
Soup ...	...	...	...	4 "
Jams ...	...	...	...	15 "
Peas ...	...	...	...	68 "
Fruit ...	...	...	...	54 "
Beans in Tomato Sauce	...	...	...	50 "
Fish Spread	...	...	...	237 "
Blackcurrants	...	...	...	1 "
Carrots ...	...	...	...	2 "
Pineapple	...	...	...	7 "
Cherries	...	...	...	6 "
Spaghetti	...	...	...	31 "
Tomatoes	...	...	...	54 "
Sliced Oranges	...	...	...	34 "
Orange Syrup	...	...	...	8 "
Apple ...	...	...	...	1 "
Apricots ...	...	...	...	1 "
Beetroot	...	...	...	10 "

Other Foods

Rice ...	...	...	...	37 Jars
Sago ...	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Meat Paste	...	...	...	47 jars
Salad Cream	...	...	...	26 bottles
Sauce ...	...	...	...	7 "
French Capers	...	...	...	1 "

Gravy Browning	...	...	...	1 bottle
Kosher Margarine	...	...	...	1 lb.
Dates	...	...	...	10 boxes
Sugar	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	1 stone, 13 lbs.

V. Bakehouses

There are seven bakehouses in operation and frequent visits are made. All are kept in clean condition. All premises have been hot lime-washed at least twice during the year. There are no under-ground bakehouses in use in the Borough.

VI. Factories Act — See Table

TABLE VII

FACTORIES ACT — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	26	12		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	10		
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority* (excluding out-workers' premises)...				
TOTAL	38	22		

*i.e. Electrical Station (Section 103 (1)). Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 107 and 108).

TABLE VIII
FACTORIES ACT — DEFECTS

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Reported to Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2.)	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)			
(a) Insufficient	...	...	...
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	...	...
Other offences against the Act (not including offence relating to Outwork)			
TOTAL	...	...	...

SECTION F

Notifiable Infectious Disease

The year was characterised by freedom from any serious outbreak of notifiable infectious disease. Indeed apart from a seasonal increase in the number of cases of measles, and whooping cough, the incidence of notifiable diseases was almost negligible.

There was one case of Acute Poliomyelitis in a man of middle age, unfortunately with fatal termination.

Infective Jaundice (the subject of research in East Anglia) was notified on 7 occasions, all in the second quarter of the year.

It is doubtless due to the general high standard of cleanliness in the catering shops of the town that not a single case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

TABLE IX

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1951

Total Cases Notified

DISEASE	AGE IN YEARS									Total	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-			
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	5	3	—
Whooping Cough ...	3	1	8	9	1	—	1	1	—	24	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Acute Polio Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	3	13	32	42	—	1	—	—	—	91	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	1	2	—	1	2	—	1	7	—	—
Infective Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	15	41	54	2	4	6	2	2	134	5	1

TABLE X

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1951

DISEASE	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	J'NE	J'LY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	—	5	7	10	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	24
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles ...	1	4	12	49	14	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	91
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE XI

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND TUBERCULOSIS CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

(Figures in parenthesis indicate Number of Deaths during each year)

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Scarlet Fever ...	4(0)	12(0)	50(0)	16(0)	17(0)	15(0)	4(0)	5(0)	2(0)	5(0)
Whooping Cough ...	50(0)	4(0)	27(0)	41(0)	12(0)	13(0)	42(0)	1(0)	3(0)	24(0)
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	2(0)	1(0)	3(0)	—	1(1)
Acute Polio Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	156(0)	71(0)	3(0)	266(0)	8(0)	7(0)	274(0)	2(0)	214(0)	91(0)
Diphtheria ...	1(0)	—	1(1)	1(0)	1(0)	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	6(0)	9(2)	5(0)	7(10)	3(0)	17(1)	10(5)	3(5)	—	2(0)
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	1(0)	—	3(0)	1(0)	2(0)
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	1(0)	—	—	—	—	1(0)	—
Erysipelas ...	2(0)	2(0)	3(0)	5(0)	2(0)	2(0)	—	—	1(0)	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	1(1)	—	1(0)	—	3(0)	1(0)	—	—	1(0)
Puerperal Pyrexia, Etc.	1(0)	—	1(0)	1(0)	—	—	2(0)	1(0)	—	1(0)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	1(0)	1(0)	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice ...	—	—	6(0)	3(0)	5(0)	—	1(0)	3(0)	2(0)	7(0)
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Pulmonary ...	4(3)	11(3)	10(8)	9(4)	12(5)	12(6)	6(1)	13(4)	4(3)	8(5)
T.B. Non-Pulmonary	3(0)	2(0)	3(0)	4(1)	3(1)	1(0)	1(0)	2(0)	3(0)	4(1)

APPENDIX

METEOROLOGICAL — STATISTICS 1951

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied the following Meteorological Statistics:—

TABLE XII

SUNSHINE AND RAINFALL, 1925—1951

Year		Sunshine Hours	Rainfall Inches
1925	...	1698.5	20.18
1926	...	1625.1	20.78
1927	...	1551.6	20.57
1928	...	1906.8	24.50
1929	...	1816.2	22.80
1930	...	1726.5	23.65
1931	...	1614.3	17.35
1932	...	1473.6	19.52
1933	...	1908.4	15.67
1934	...	1792.0	19.57
1935	...	1910.0	24.75
1936	...	1617.4	23.39
1937	...	1554.1	27.50
1938	...	1780.9	27.50
1939	...	1773.7	29.92
1940	...	1816.5	20.76
1941	...	1426.5	22.14
1942	...	1631.0	23.70
1943	...	1858.5	16.65
1944	...	1649.0	22.74
1945	...	1584.3	19.77
1946	...	1701.9	25.92
1947	...	1853.8	19.39
1948	...	1750.8	18.67
1949	...	1930.6	17.83
1950	...	1649.8	22.87
1951	...	1684.5	28.11

The coldest day during 1951 was 30th January with 36 degrees.

The warmest days during 1951 were 17th and 19th July with 79 degrees.

Days with the most sunshine were June 30th and August 3rd with 13.9 hours.

The wettest day during 1951 was August 6th with 1.13 inches.

TABLE XIII
TEMPERATURES

MONTH	MEANS				HIGHEST		LOWEST	
	Dry	Wet	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.
January	39.7	38.7	44.0	36.4	52	45	36	23
February... ..	39.4	38.8	43.5	34.9	49	40	38	30
March	40.8	39.1	46.0	35.9	55	47	37	29
April	46.3	43.2	52.2	38.0	66	42	46	33
May	52.7	50.24	57.0	45.5	69	52	47	39
June	59.8	55.56	65.0	50.5	75	63	43	55
July	65.29	61.9	71.4	55.0	79	63	66	47
August	62.78	60.9	68.0	55.0	74	62	63	47
September ...	60.6	58.08	66.0	53.8	76	63	58	47
October	52.4	50.6	57.8	47.4	63	58	46	33
November	48.5	47.3	52.4	42.3	57	50	47	32
December	42.3	41.37	46.9	37.8	53	47	40	28

TABLE XIV
BRIGHT SUNSHINE

	Hours	Daily Average	Number of Sunless Days
January	48.7	1.57	13
February... ..	61.3	2.18	10
March	110.4	3.56	6
April	195.2	6.5	—
May	187.5	6.04	3
June	267.0	8.9	2
July	227.0	7.32	—
August	169.2	5.45	—
September ...	155.0	5.16	1
October	140.9	4.54	3
November	61.8	2.06	11
December	60.5	1.95	14

TABLE XV

RAINFALL

			Total fall in inches	Greatest fall in 24 hours	Date
January	...	...	1.84	.29	1st
February	...	...	3.73	.83	20th
March	...	...	2.59	.41	16th
April	...	...	2.26	.69	8th
May	...	...	2.09	.50	1st
June	...	...	1.18	.33	11th
July	...	...	2.02	1.07	1st
August	...	...	3.61	1.13	6th
September	...	...	2.93	.68	27th
October	...	...	.78	.24	29th
November	...	...	3.31	.59	25th
December	...	...	1.77	.55	29th